

Appln. No. 10/816,883
Amd. dated December 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 6, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached hereto is a replacement sheet for the tenth and eleventh sheets of drawings containing amended Figs. 10 and 11. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The Official Action of September 6, 2005, has been carefully reviewed. The claims in the application are now claims 1 and 3-15, and these claims should now all be allowable consistent with what is stated in the Official Action. Favorable consideration and early formal allowance are respectfully urged.

Acknowledgement by the PTO of the receipt of applicants' papers filed under Section 119 is noted.

Figures 10 and 11 have been objected to as not being designated "prior art". Filed herewith are two sheets, each marked "replacement sheet", these sheets corresponding to figs. 10 and 11 now marked "prior art". Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

The drawings have also been objected to because they show a reference in numeral "9" which is not described in the specification. No further changes have been made in the drawings, but the specification has been amended at pages 2-4 to incorporate the reference numeral "9". In addition, a typographical error has been corrected at page 8, line 6 of the specification.

Claim 11 has been objected to because of a clerical error in that claim 11 is incorrectly set forth as dependent from claim 7 rather than claim 9. This clerical or typographical error has now been corrected above.

Claim 1 has been rejected under Section 102 as being anticipated by Okabe et al USP 6,639,559 (Okabe)

Regardless of whether or not the rejection is correct, it is no longer applicable in view of the amendment

presented above wherein the dependent portion of claim 2 has now been incorporated into claim 1, thereby converting claim 1 as currently amended into claim 2 as originally presented. Claim 2 has not been rejected on the basis of Okabe, and therefore the rejection no longer applies.

Indeed, claim 2 as been indicated in paragraph 7 at the top of page 4 as being "allowable if re-written in independent form... ." Applicant understands that claim 2 is deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103, and therefore claim 1 as amended above, which now corresponds to claim 2 re-written in Independent form, also defines novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103.

Claims 3-10 and 12-15 have been allowed. Applicant understands that theses claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103, and to meet all other requirements for patentability.

Claim 11 has only been objected to noting paragraph 7 of the Office Action Summary. Claim 11 has not been rejected on the basis of any prior art, and applicant accordingly understands that claim 11 is also deemed to be free of the prior art and thus define novel and unobvious subject matter, and to otherwise meet all requirements for patentability. In this regard, claim 11 now depends from and incorporates the subject matter of claim 9, the latter of which has been allowed. Therefore, claim 11 should be allowable at lease for the same reasons as claim 9.

The prior art documents made of record and not relied upon by the PTO, although indicated by the Examiner to be pertinent to applicant's disclosure, are understood to be

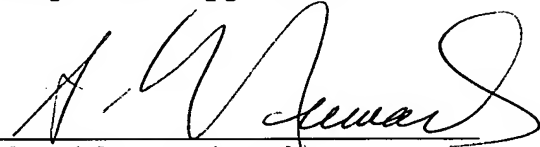
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insufficiently material to warrant their application against any of applicant's claims.

Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Official Action have been addressed above in a manner which should lead to patentability of applicant's claims. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By 

Sheridan Neimark
Registration No. 20,520

SN:kg
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
G:\BN\A\Asak\Furuya1\pto\AMD 05DEC05.doc

Fig. 10
Prior Art

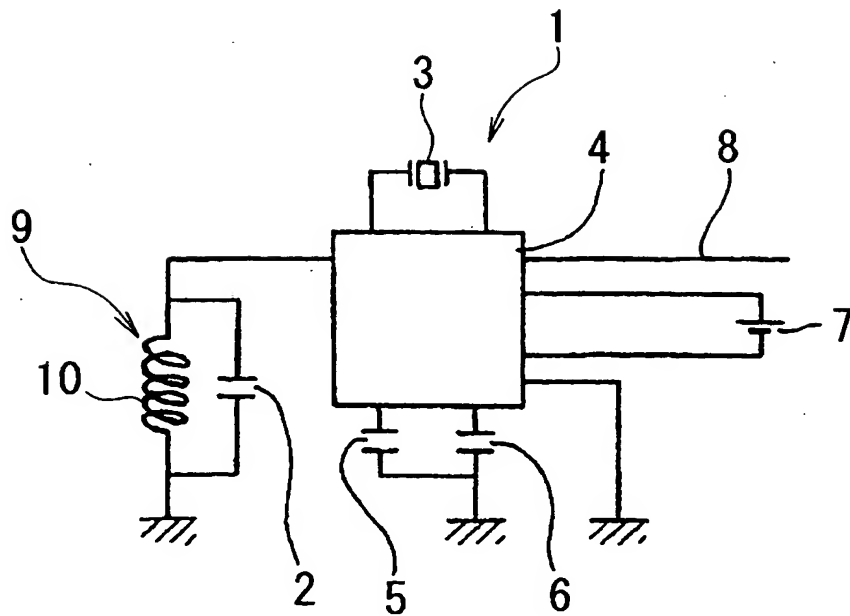


Fig. 11
Prior Art

